3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD LUCK TURNS INTO A MUCH BIGGER KINDNESS...

Label: Ice Cream

For you, Onee-chan!

Chapter.6:
BEYOND THE NIGHT SKY

CREDITS:
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After I finished the match against Nikaidou,

I headed for their house as promised.

IT'S KIRIYAMA.

GOOD EVENING

YOU SHOULD COME AGAIN AFTER YOUR GAME.

WE'LL HAVE OKURIBON. I'LL MAKE PLENTY OF FOOD...

IT'S LATE, YOU MUST BE TIRED.

I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY, TOO. COME ON IN.

See, Momo, Rei-chan's here.

SORRY TO BE SO LATE.

I brought some pudding.

Crabby

SFX: WINDING...

It looks great... but I don't know if I can eat it all.....

THANK YOU.

TA-DAH!! ENJOY! SINCE YOU WERE COMING LATE, I SET YOUR PLATES SEPARATELY.

And since you don't have a big appetite, I made small portions~!

Chirashi-zushi

gratin

miso soup

sashimi

edamame

croquette

spring rolls

Salad

LOCALLY FAMOUS (?) TASTE TRIATHALON

Wow... that's tiny....

--AND THIS IS FOR MOM AND GRANDMA.

a perfect fit

I used one of Momo's doll sets!

JUST A BITE. ONE BITE. COME ON. JUST ONE BITE...

WE WANT SOME.. WANT SOME...

OOOOH WHAT'S THAT? WHAT IS IT? WE WANT SOME WE WANT SOME ...

YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP YET, GRANDPA.

IT'S TIME TO LIGHT THE RETURN FIRE.

crabby

SFX: YAWN はふわ——ううう

OOF.

THESE DAYS, EVEN A COUPLE OF BEERS IS...

A TALL ORDER.

UP WE GO...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

IF IT GETS TOO LATE, GRANDMA AND YOUR MOTHER WILL HAVE A HECK OF A TIME GETTING BACK.....

HM?

OH, IT'S PAST NINE ALREADY .....

SFX: CRICKETS

THE OTHER DAY YOU LIT IT EARLY IN THE EVENING...

.....

YES, THAT WAS FOR MUKAEBON.

WHEN THEY'RE ON THE WAY HERE,

WE LIGHT THE INCENSE AT SUNDOWN TO SAY "HURRY, EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU."

BUT FOR OKURIBON,

WHEN WE SEE THEM OFF, WE WAIT UNTIL DINNER'S OVER

BEFORE WE LIGHT IT, TO TELL THEM "STAY AS LONG AS YOU CAN."

AND SEE,

WHEN THEY COME, WE MAKE CUCUMBER HORSES SO THEY'LL GET HERE FASTER.

WHEN WE SEND THEM BACK,

WE SEND THEM ON OXEN MADE FROM EGGPLANTS,

SO THEY'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK SAFELY WHILE CARRYING ALL OF OUR GIFTS ...

EVERYONE WAS SMILING LIKE ALWAYS, BUT

IT'S TIME FOR US TO SEND THEM OFF.

--WELL NOW,

AND SO SUBDUED...

SOMEHOW, THEY LOOKED TIRED

IT SEEMED TO ME--

OF PEOPLE WHO'D ALREADY PASSED AWAY...

WORRYING ABOUT THE COMINGS AND GOINGS

MAKING A BIG DINNER,

WHEN I SAW THEM LIKE THAT, MAKING THEIR HORSES AND OXEN,

--THAT THE WHOLE PAINFUL RITUAL DID NOTHING BUT REINFORCE MEMORIES BETTER OFF FORGOTTEN.....

ALL RIGHT.

.....

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GO INSIDE.

MOMO, ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR BATH AND GO TO BED?

I'M GOING TO RUN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE FOR A MINUTE.

EH?

GO ON, GET GOING.

UH, YES SIR.

SFIC WHACK

YOU GO WITH HER, BOY.

.....

UH, FOR MANGA.

I FORGOT THAT *HANA TO YUME* IS OUT.

AT THIS HOUR, HINA?

FOR WHAT?

WHERE'S SHE GOING?

THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO THE...

.....

SHE'S FAST...

THERE SHE IS...

HINA...

SFX: STEP

.....

HINA...

M--

MOM

MO

MOM...

MOM....

-OM...

SHE MUST'VE BEEN RESTRAINING HERSELF THE WHOLE TIME

IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE .....

I COULDN'T CALL OUT TO HER.

HER VOICE MADE MY HEART STOP IN MY CHEST...

MO

-OM...

...

S...

SOB...

HIC

MO... M...

SFX: GLANG

KIRI-
YAMA-
KUN...

THE DOUBTS I HAD SHUT AWAY BEGAN TO WELL UP.

IT'S OKAY.

IT'S OKAY.....

AS I LISTENED TO HER SOBBING,

SNIFF

HIC

S

SOB

S-

SOR

RY...

I'LL

I'LL

I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE--

Hina, who was crying

I--

...

SNIFFLE

SNIFF

HIC

HF...

SOB

ALL THIS TIME, MY REAL FAMILY, THE ONES I'D LOST--

SOAKING INTO MY HEART LIKE INK.

LET'S STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER...

and I, who didn't cry.....

The two of us side by side, looking up at the beautiful,

BECAUSE CRYING OVER THEM WAS NO USE, I GAVE UP CRYING,

AND BECAUSE THINKING ABOUT THEM HURT, I TRIED NOT TO THINK--

I JUST KEPT CHASING, CHASING, CHASING THEM OUT OF MY HEAD...

BUT.....

beautiful--just beautiful--

WAS THAT REALLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO...

3月のライオンは羽海野先生取材のため20号、21号とお休みします。連載再開は22号(11月9日発売)からです。お楽しみに

July night sky.....

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